

The American Veteran
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Cemeteries

VA CEMETERIES: THEY'RE LOCATED AROUND THE COUNTRY AND MORE OF THEM ARE BEING BUILT IN AREAS CONVENIENT FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

DANIEL MCDABBOT REPORTS.

>> Reporter: LIKE OLD GLORY, OUR NATIONAL CEMETERY STANDS PROUD DEEP IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

>> HOW WE HONOR OUR VETERANS ARE A REFLECTION ON OUR SOCIETY.

THIS IS OUR NATION'S WAY OF SAYING THANKS TO THE SERVICE THAT THEY GAVE.

>>Reporter: THEY ARE OUR MOTHERS, FATHERS, SISTERS, BROTHERS, AND CHILDREN.

THEY FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM.

THEY CARE FOR OUR COUNTRY.

WHEN WE VISIT THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACE, WE REMEMBER THE VETERANS AS FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.

&%F0 ABRAHAM LINCOLN RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF A SOLDIER'S PROPER BURIAL STARTING A TRADITION OF NATIONAL CEMETERIES DEDICATED TO THE AMERICAN VETERANS.

THIS SYSTEM HAS GROWN FROM 14 SMALL CEMETERIES NEAR CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS TO 120 VA NATIONAL CEMETERIES PLUS DOZENS MORE STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES.

>> THE CEMETERY BUSINESS IS JUST TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN IT WAS BACK IN 1862.

WITH THE NEWER NATIONAL CEMETERIES YOU'LL SEE MUCH

LARGER CEMETERIES. OF COURSE, THE EQUIPMENT HAS GOTTEN MUCH, MUCH MORE ADVANCED.

>> Reporter: KEEPING UP WITH THE DEMAND FOR VETERAN BURIAL BENEFITS IS A CHALLENGE.

>> WE'RE EXPANDING OUR EXISTING NATIONAL CEMETERIES WHEREVER IT'S POSSIBLE.

WE'RE BUILDING LARGE REGIONAL CEMETERIES IN METROPOLITAN AREAS TO TAKE CARE OF THE NEED WHERE THE VETERANS NEED.

>>Reporter: A NATIONAL CEMETERY RECENTLY OPENED IN OKLAHOMA.

11 MORE ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR WILL BE BUILT IN ALABAMA, CALIFORNIA, GEORGIA, FLORIDA, MICHIGAN, PENNSYLVANIA, AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, MEN AND WOMEN, OFTEN VETERANS, TAKE CARE OF THE OLD AND NEW CEMETERIES WITH PRIDE.

>> WE TRY TO TREAT EACH BURIAL AS IF IT WAS A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY.

>> I BELIEVE I MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND I ENJOY IT.

AND I LIKE TO BE ABLE TO -- TO SERVE THE PEOPLE THAT DID SO MUCH FOR THIS COUNTRY.

>>Reporter: FROM A FLAG PRESENTATION TO A HEADSTONE OR MARKER TO A PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE.

IT'S ONE OF VA'S WAYS OF SAYING AMERICA CARES.

>> SPOUSES AND CHILDREN MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR BURIAL IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 1-800-827-1000 OR LOG ON TO CEM.VA.GOV.

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